



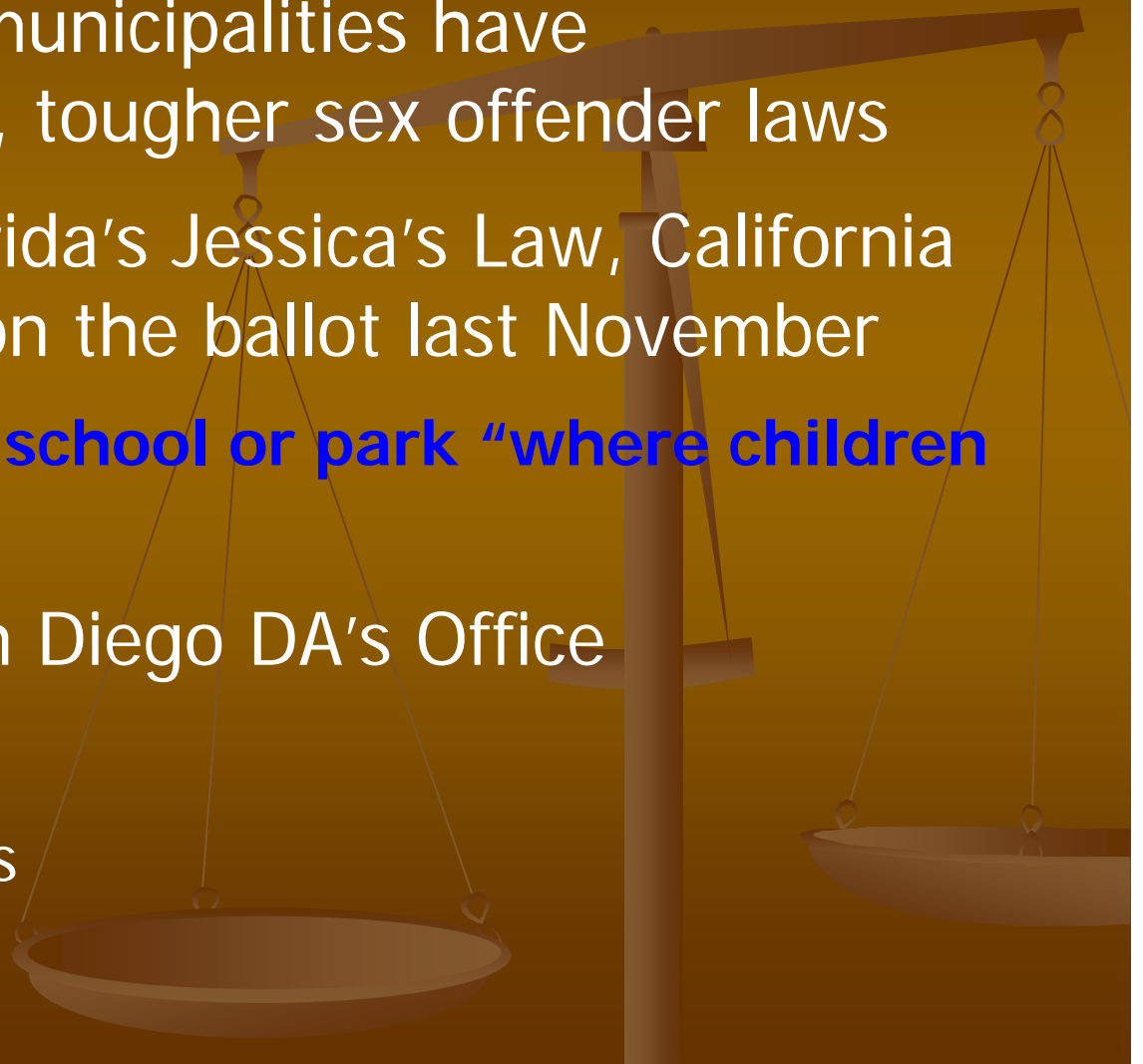
# **Sex Offender Laws: Planning for an Election**

**THE 9<sup>th</sup> CRIME MAPPING RESEARCH CONFERENCE**

March 28-31, 2007  
Pittsburgh, PA

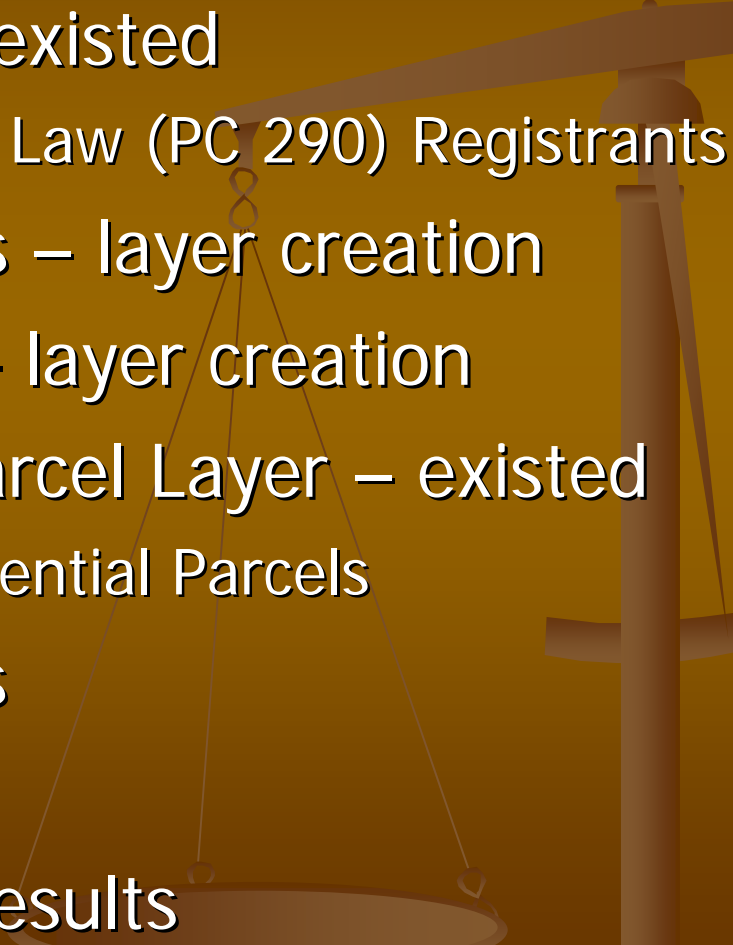
# Presentation Overview

- Many states and municipalities have implemented new, tougher sex offender laws
- Modeled after Florida's Jessica's Law, California put a similar law on the ballot last November
  - **2,000 feet from school or park "where children gather"**
- Process of the San Diego DA's Office
  - Data issues
  - Maps and analyses

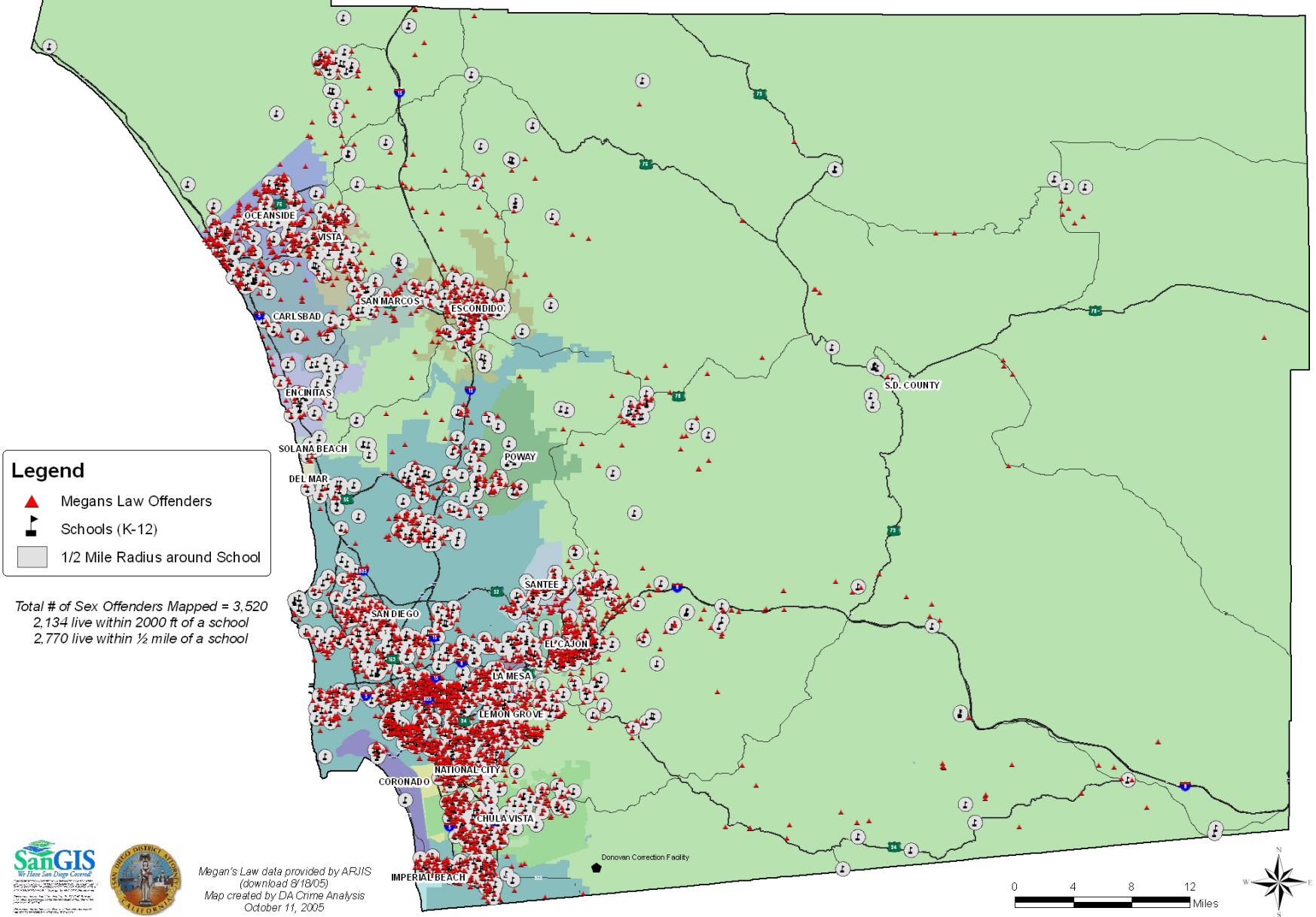


# Iterative Process...

## *It's all about the data*

- School Points - existed
    - Add in Megan's Law (PC 290) Registrants
  - School Polygons – layer creation
  - Park Polygons – layer creation
  - Tax Assessor Parcel Layer – existed
    - Extracted Residential Parcels
  - Creating Buffers
  - Making Maps
  - Analyzing the Results
- 

# Megans Law (PC290) Sex Registrants and Schools San Diego County



# San Diego County School Properties and Megan's Law Registrants

## Legend

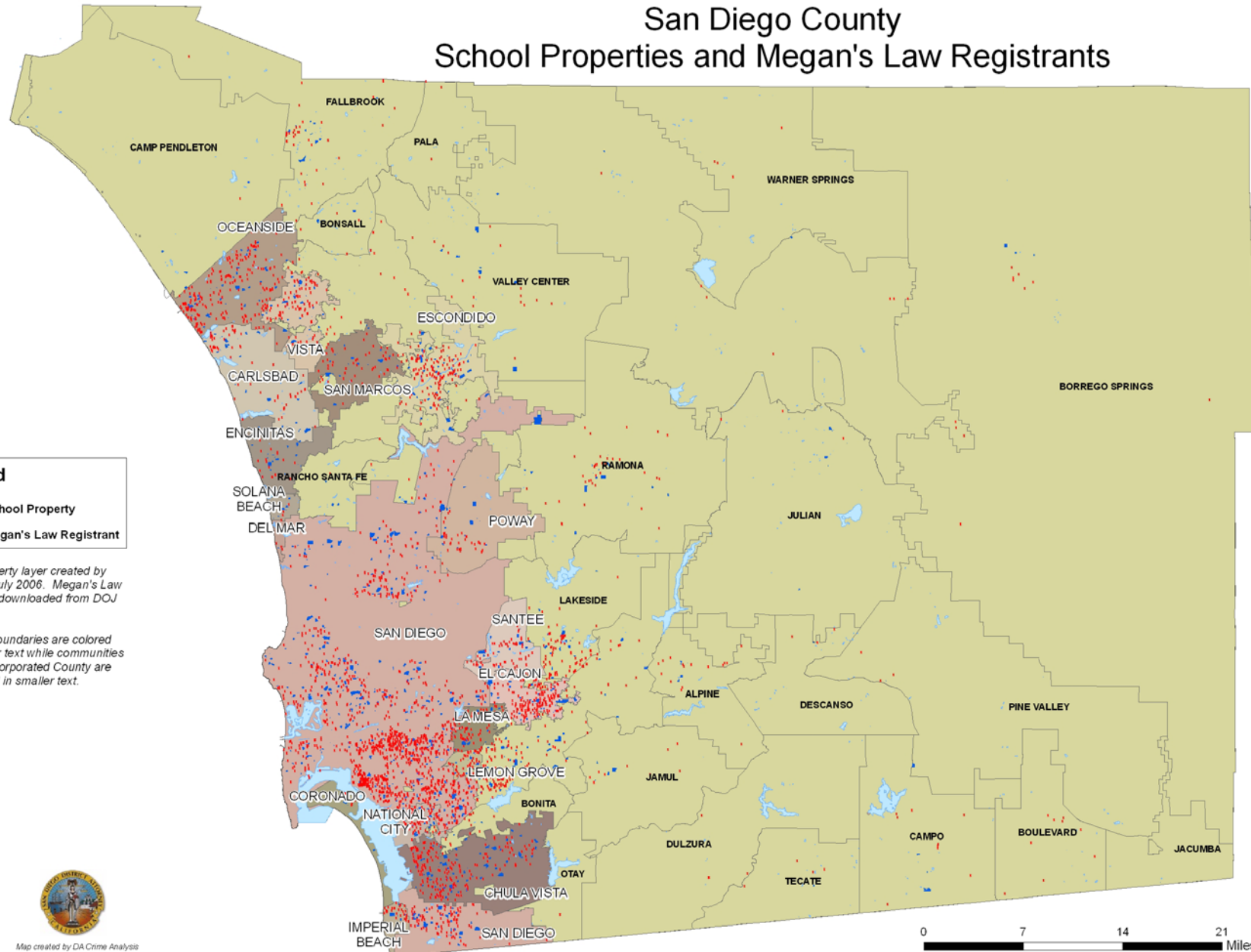
- School Property
- Megan's Law Registrant

School property layer created by SANDAG, July 2006. Megan's Law Registrants downloaded from DOJ on 8/10/06.

Municipal Boundaries are colored and in larger text while communities within Unincorporated County are outlined and in smaller text.



Map created by DA Crime Analysis  
September 28, 2006



0 7 14 21 Miles



# San Diego County Jessica's Law 2000 Foot School Buffers

**Legend**

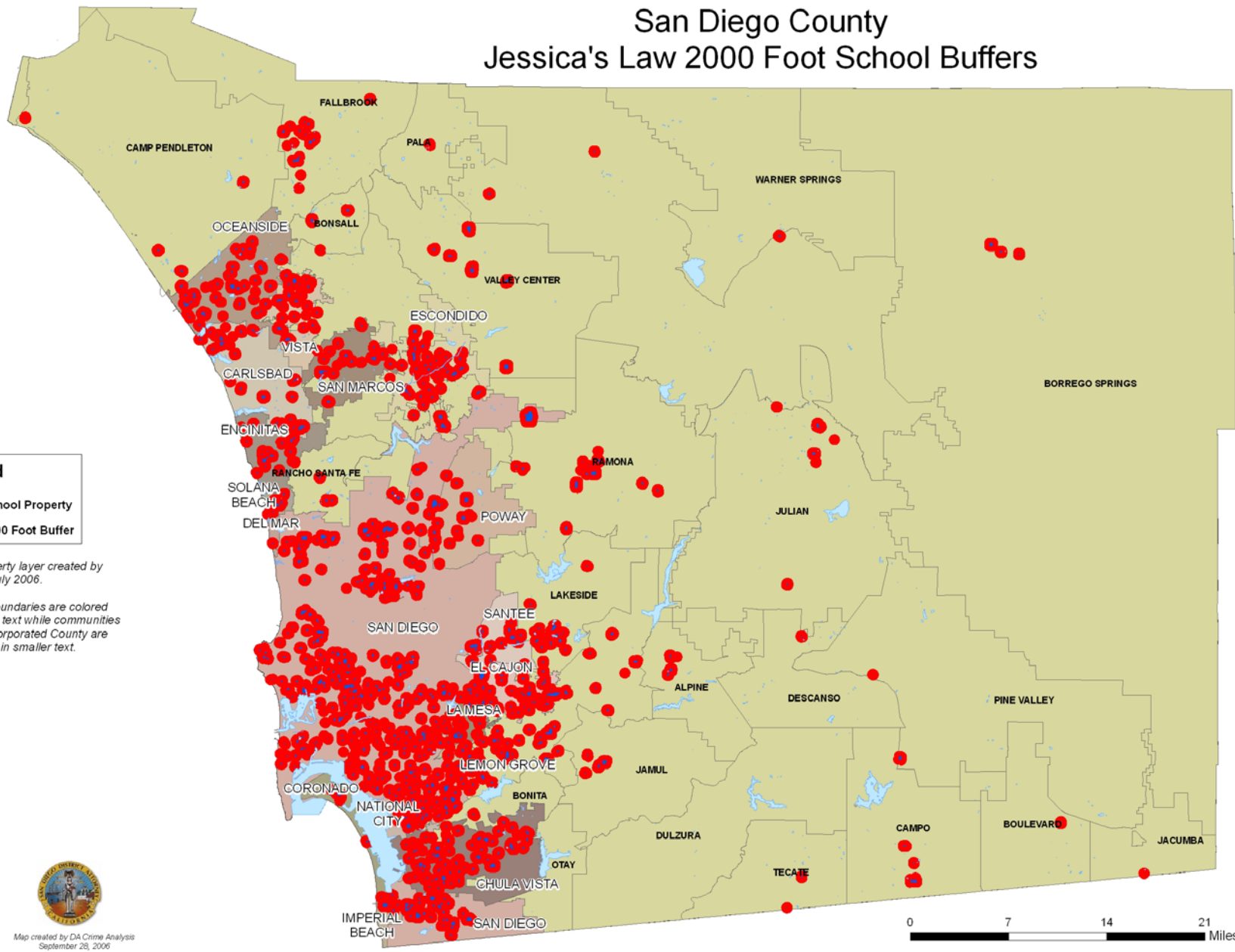
-  School Property
-  2000 Foot Buffer

School property layer created by SANDAG, July 2006.

Municipal Boundaries are colored and in larger text while communities within Unincorporated County are outlined and in smaller text.



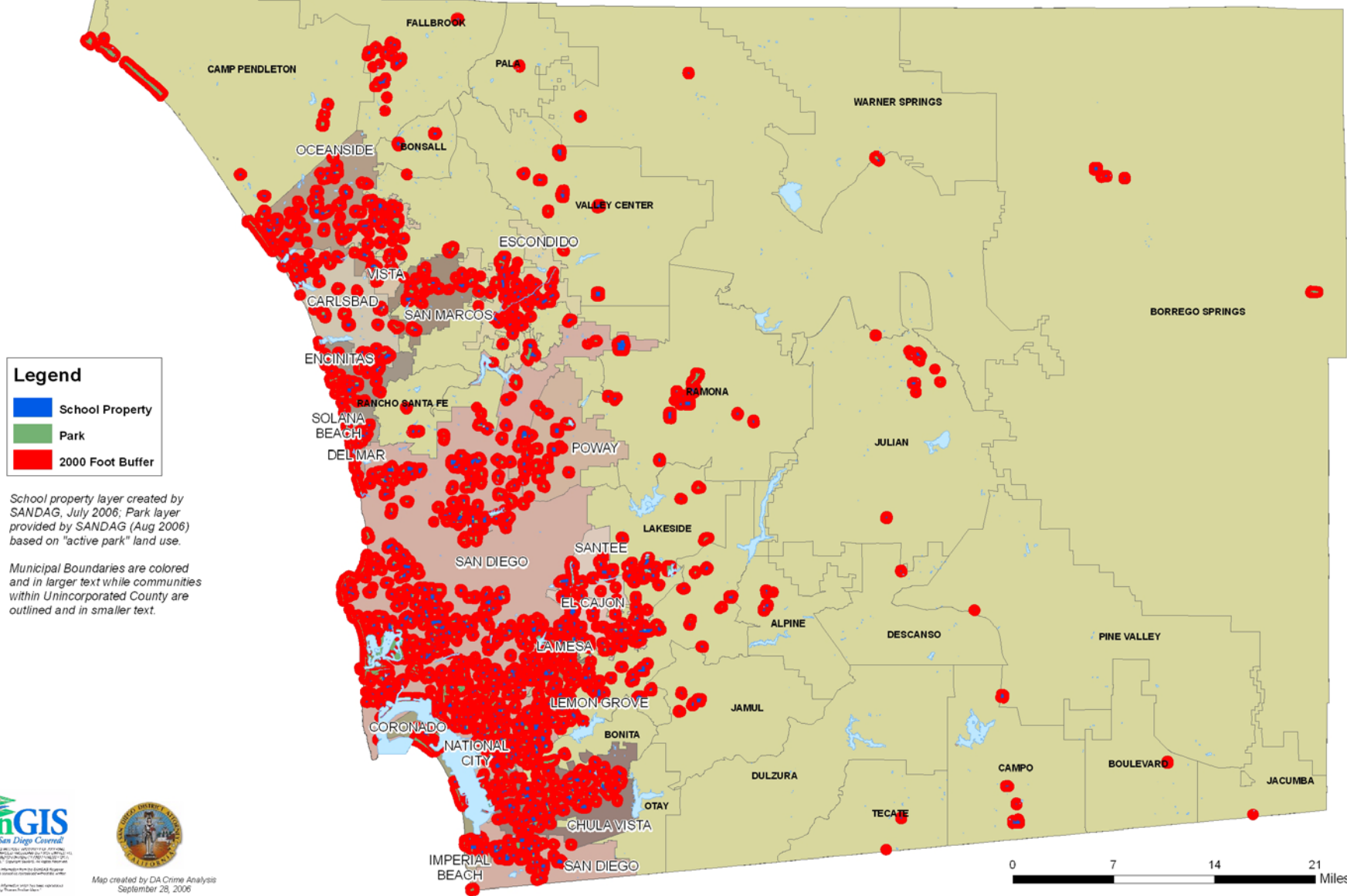
Map created by DA Crime Analysis  
September 26, 2006



0 7 14 21 Miles



# San Diego County Jessica's Law 2000 Foot Buffers



**Legend**

- School Property
- Park
- 2000 Foot Buffer

School property layer created by SANDAG, July 2006; Park layer provided by SANDAG (Aug 2006) based on "active park" land use.

Municipal Boundaries are colored and in larger text while communities within Unincorporated County are outlined and in smaller text.



Map created by DA Crime Analysis  
September 28, 2006

# San Diego County

## Jessica's Law 2000 Foot Buffers and Megan's Law Registrants

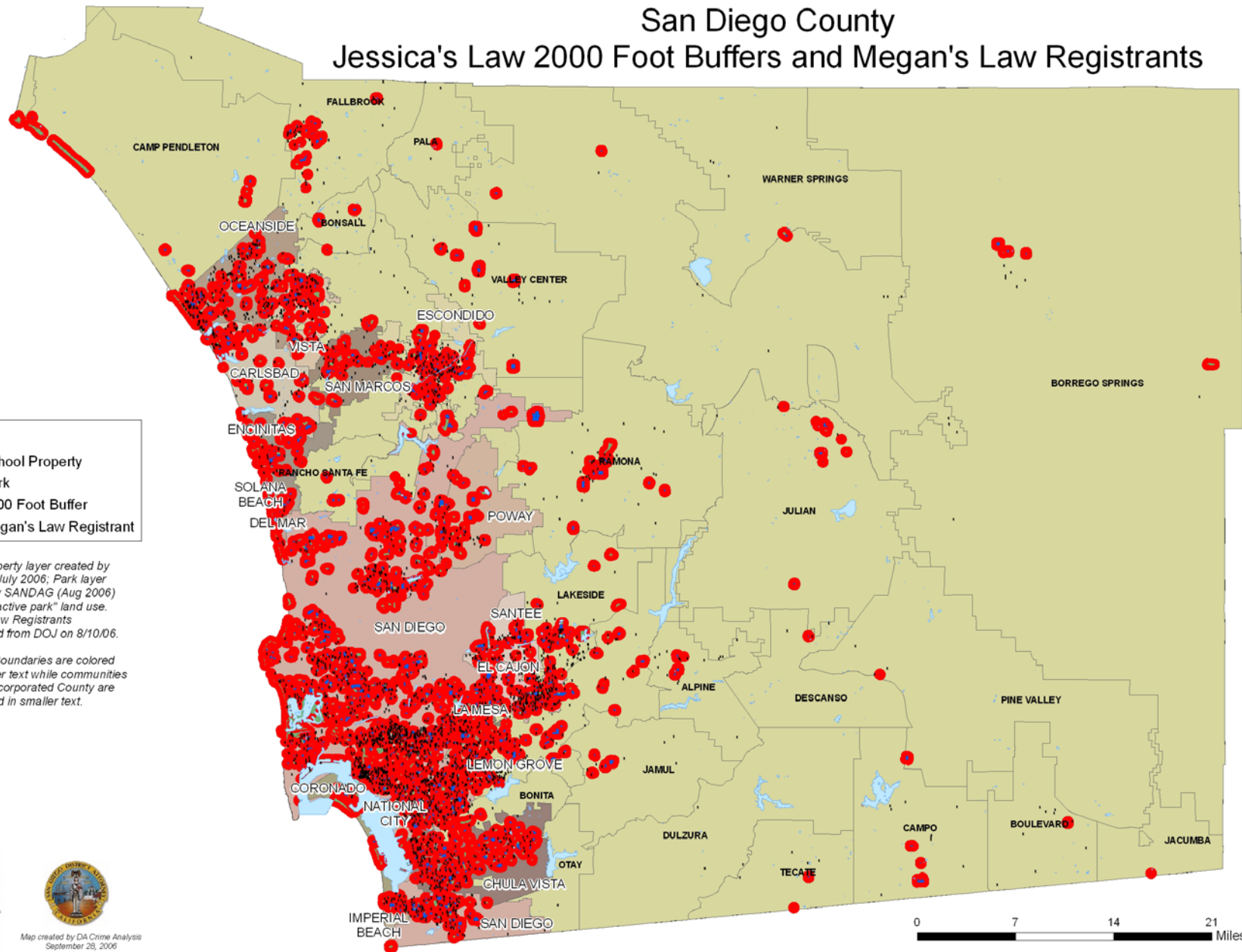
- Legend**
- School Property
  - Park
  - 2000 Foot Buffer
  - ✱ Megan's Law Registrant

School property layer created by SANDAG, July 2006; Park layer provided by SANDAG (Aug 2006) based on "active park" land use. Megan's Law Registrants downloaded from DOJ on 8/10/06.

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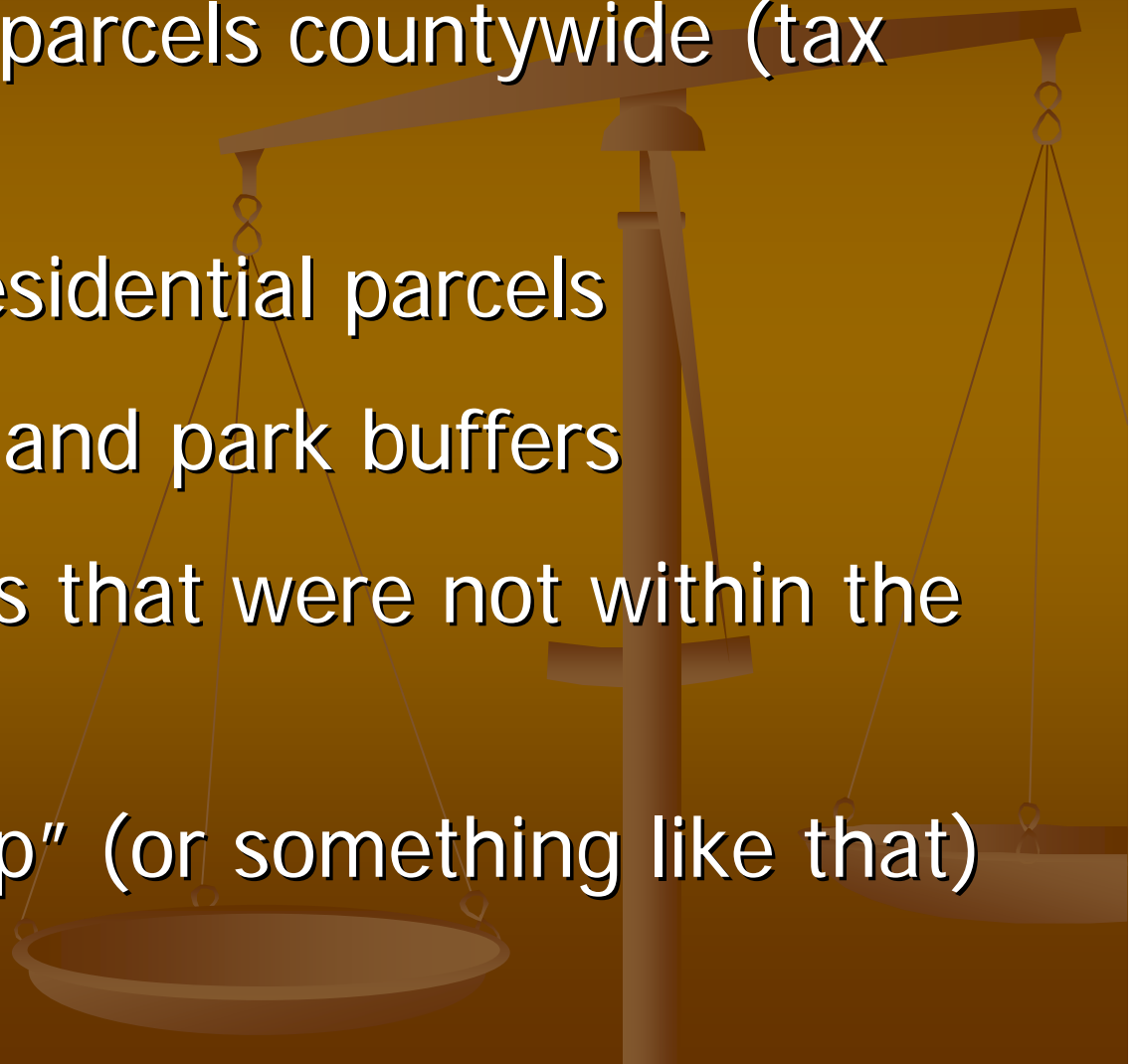


Map created by DA Crime Analysis  
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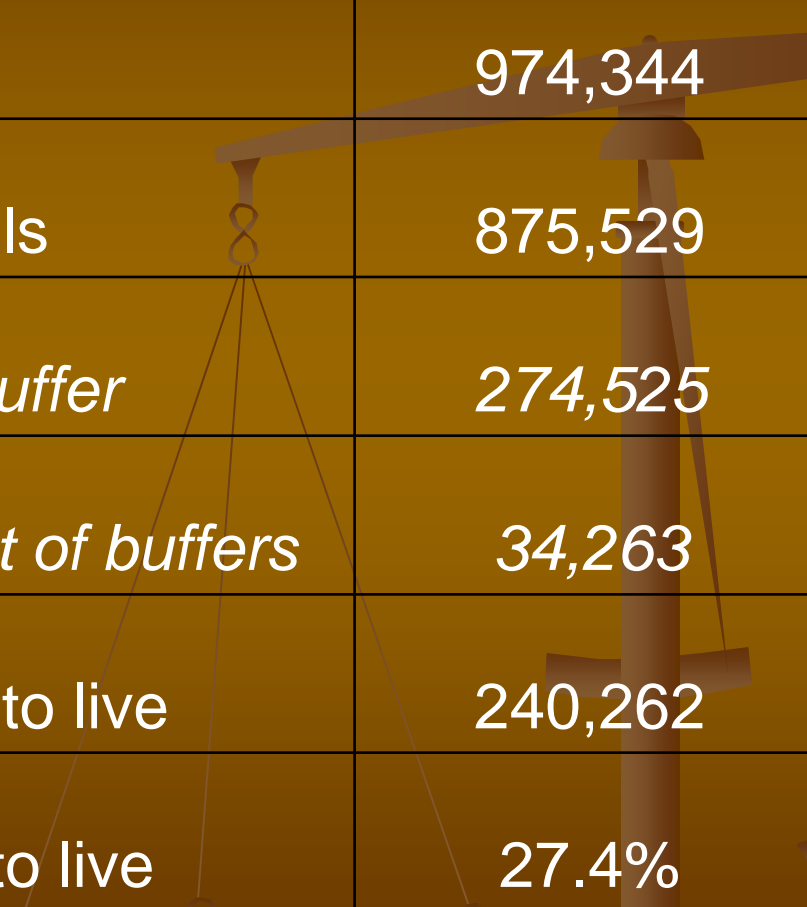


# Residential Parcel Analysis

- Started with all parcels countywide (tax assessor file)
- Extracted out residential parcels
- Overlaid school and park buffers
- Analyzed parcels that were not within the buffer
- Said... "holy crap" (or something like that)



# Residential Parcel Analysis Results



Total Parcels	974,344
Residential Parcels	875,529
<i>Parcels outside buffer</i>	<i>274,525</i>
<i>Parcels in and out of buffers</i>	<i>34,263</i>
Total Parcels OK to live	240,262
% of Parcels OK to live	27.4%

# The Debate

- If GIS had been used and this analysis had been done *prior* to the legislation... would it still have been written the way it was? And passed overwhelmingly?
- More importantly... how can we use GIS in the future to influence public policy and legislation?

